

HEALTH PHYSICIST

DEFINITION: Under general direction, exercises independent judgment in performing scientific work of considerable difficulty; studies conducted are considered as authoritative; additional primary focus is on the protection of human life and the environment from unwarranted exposure to ionizing radiation; performs related work as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

TASKS:

Plans, organizes, promotes and administers radiological safety programs; surveys and evaluates ionizing radiation hazards; develops policies and procedures for the protection of personnel and the handling of radioactive materials; develops and assures compliance with monitoring procedures; determines the adequacy of protective equipment and clothing, and recommends means of correcting inadequacies; conducts surveys and inspections to ensure compliance with established standards and requirements.

Exercises authority to halt work operations when necessary for health and safety reasons; advises professional personnel and laboratory technicians in the application of radioactivity calculations to shielding and decontamination procedures to be followed in handling radioactive materials; tests surrounding work areas to ensure that radiation is not in excess of permissible standards; develops criteria for design and modification of health physics equipment (i.e. detectors, counters, etc.) to improve radiation protection.

Develops standards of permissible concentrations of radioisotopes in liquids and gases; consults with scientific personnel to determine that equipment conforms to health physics standards for protection of personnel and animals; assigns film badges and dosimeters to personnel and recommends changes in assignment for health reasons; advises public authorities on methods of dealing with radiation hazards and procedures to be followed in radiation incidents; tests for levels of toxicity for various materials.

Completes site screening and prioritization checklist for new sites during the discovery phase of the Federal Superfund process; provides initial site information (e.g. eligibility, operational history, contaminants, and other influencing factors; generates a preliminary assessment report on a site passing the screening process including site background, geology, hydrology, troposphere, demographics and biota; conducts document searches, personal interviews, telephone calls, correspondence and site reconnaissance.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:

Knowledge of the principles and practices of physical health, natural science and engineering field.

Knowledge of the principles and theories of radiological science and chemistry.

Knowledge of the principles and theories of physics, and biology.

Knowledge of the Navajo Nation policies and procedures related to hazardous materials.

Skill in detecting radiological and biomedical hazards.

Skill in establishing standards for the protection of human and animals.

Skill in performing mathematical calculations.

Skill in the use of combinations of discipline for research purposes.

Skill in identifying hazards and eliminating the dangers.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: Work involves frequent and sustained periods of potential for exposure to radiological and physical harm.

THE NAVAJO NATION

Class Code: 3248
Natural Resources and Parks Series
Biological Science Group
Overtime Code: Exempt
Pay Grade: 65

HEALTH PHYSICIST

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Bachelor's degree in Health Physics, Natural Science, or Environmental Science or a closely related field work, and three (3) years professional health physicist experience.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Master's degree in Health Physics, Industrial Hygiene or Environmental Science or related field.
- 3 yrs. of experience assessing human health and environmental risks associated with radioactive waste disposal and natural materials.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office software or other computer applications.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Possess a valid state driver's license.

Supplemental Information:

Additional certifications may be required.

Depending upon the needs of the Nation, some incumbents may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.